



2006 List of Best Workplaces for CommutersSM from Colleges and Universities

Background

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is recognizing 72 institutions of higher education on the first ever National List of Best Workplaces for Commuters from colleges and universities.

What is Best Workplaces for Commuters?

Best Workplaces for Commuters is a voluntary program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which nationally recognizes excellence in employer-provided commuter benefits. Like other “Best of” lists, the Best Workplaces for Commuters program highlights innovative employers, including colleges and universities nationwide, that provide an outstanding package of commuter benefits. Employees of Best Workplaces for Commuters employers improve air quality, save energy, and reduce traffic congestion.

How does a college or university qualify as one of the Best Workplaces for Commuters?

To qualify as one of the Best Workplaces for Commuters, a college or university must meet the *National Standard of Excellence* for commuter benefits by providing:

- At least one primary commuter benefit, which can include a monthly transit/vanpool pass subsidy, cash in lieu of free parking, a significant telework program, or other equivalent benefits.
- At least three supporting commuter benefits, which can include carpool/vanpool incentives, lockers/showers for bikers or walkers, incentives for living near work, or membership in a transportation management association.
- A central point of contact for information, who actively informs employees of available commuter benefits.
- Access to a regional or employer-provided Emergency/Guaranteed Ride Home program.

Why do colleges and universities offer excellent commuter benefits meeting the *National Standard of Excellence*?

- It makes good business sense because they save money on parking and facility costs.
- The Best Workplaces for Commuters designation provides a competitive edge in recruiting and retaining employees by providing a valued employee benefit.
- Best Workplaces for Commuters demonstrates environmental leadership.
- By reducing parking demand and reducing harmful emissions in their communities, colleges and universities enhance town/gown relations.

